



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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PARSONS, KANSAS, MAN CHARGED IN CRACK COCAINE CASE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that **Maurice Montell Robinson**, 30, Parsons, Kansas, was charged on May 13, 2004, with one count of possession with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more (1.76 ounces or more) of crack cocaine on May 12, 2004.

Robinson made his initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kansas, today. He has been temporarily detained and a detention hearing is scheduled for May 17, 2004, at 11:00 a.m.

A complaint filed with the court alleges that on May 12, 2004, Robinson sold crack cocaine to an undercover officer in Parsons, Kansas, and that during this purchase the officer saw that Robinson possessed additional crack cocaine. The complaint alleges that following the sale of crack cocaine to the undercover officer, officers attempted to stop Robinson's vehicle. The complaint alleges that Robinson did not stop when officers activated their lights and siren and during the following pursuit officers saw Robinson throw something from his vehicle. The complaint further alleges that Robinson was eventually stopped and arrested and the crack cocaine he threw from his vehicle was recovered.

If convicted, Robinson faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole.

This case is part of a two and one-half year investigation in Southeast Kansas that involved drug trafficking in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. The case was investigated by the Southeast Kansas Drug Task Force with the assistance of the Parsons Police Department, Labette County Sheriff's Office, Coffeyville Police Department, KBI, FBI, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Joplin, Missouri Police Department, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Pittsburg Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The Byrne Grant provides partial funding for the

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Southeast Kansas Drug Task Force and helps make these types of investigations possible. Assistance was provided by the Labette County Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The charges filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.

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